ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT #05-013W

What could be better than seeing a child get excited about finding a spider's web? As a parent, I spent many summer days in the garden with our son as he watched a spider spin its web and catch its prey. It is a privilege to help hundreds of children every year discover the wonder of nature at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Preschool students are my favorite -- they are low to the ground so they find every ant, worm, and daddy long-legs. Most of them are excited to use a magnifier to observe a roly-poly (pillbug) under a log. That's good, because with a group of children in the woods, more mobile wildlife hide.

I call nature walks "discovery hikes" because we never know what we'll see or hear along the trail. One day the butterflies will be everywhere and a few days later the children will find lots of snails. Sometimes the birds will be singing all around us and other times the woods are silent. But whatever they see, or don't see, children who visit the Sanctuary have the chance to walk in the woods and see green trees and plants instead of concrete and asphalt. Urban children, who make up the majority of the students visiting the Sanctuary, don't have that chance very often. Almost every visit by an urban school class brings questions about the bears, alligators, or tigers in the woods! It's sad that many children know about the "world's most ferocious animals" from television but know little about our native animals.

During the past year over 1,300 children participated in Adams Wildlife Sanctuary environmental education programs. Most programs are on-site, but the Sanctuary participates in Earth Stewardship Day for Sangamon County students and Stewardship Week in Morgan County. During the winter, in-class programs take environmental education to schools. Students range from preschoolers through college classes. Thanks to grants, donations, and fund raising efforts, Adams is able to offer free programs for low-income students. The IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund is a key component in the Sanctuary budget.

Thank you.

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PROJECT BUDGET

	Estimated	Actual
Labor	$9,000.00	$9543.00
Commodities (program supplies)	$200.00	$205.14
Travel (by A.W.S. Director)	$50.00	$31.50
Bus scholarships to bring students to A.W.S.		$340.07
Funds provided by A.W.S.		$9,121.57
Funds provided by WPF grant		$998.14
Funds provided by WPF grant:		
Labor		$793.00
Commodities		$205.14

Students served from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 -- over 1,300
Number of classes/groups served: 45
Groups (other than school classes): Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, United Cerebral Palsy Day Camp
Events at which programs were offered: Earth Stewardship Day (Sangamon Co), Stewardship Week (Jacksonville)

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